

Abstract of the Disclosure

Internal communication signals in a stored program controlled system comprising a plurality of units configured to process signals are provided by an optical beam line which is proximal to all of the plurality of units. The system of this invention uses Time Division Multiplexing techniques to provide a plurality of logically independent subchannels over a single shared free space optical beam line. The single logical beam is divided temporally among the subchannels, with each subchannel operating for a selected timeslot or timeslots.